



Dear Citizens,

This week, in response to concerns about crime and violence in Baltimore's neighborhoods, I hosted four emergency meetings with educators, neighborhood and community leaders, faith leaders, and youth and student leaders. I asked them to join me in an open and frank discussion about solutions to rid our neighborhoods of crime and violence.

I am grateful to everyone who came to the meetings on such short notice. Police Commissioner Leonard Hamm and I appreciated the opportunity to hear people speak frankly and honestly about these issues. While there were many solutions suggested, it was clear that people are interested in more targeted distribution of government resources, as well as improving the relationship between the Police Department and citizens.

It is clear to me that most people in our communities care deeply about this problem, and are very hopeful that by partnering with our new community policing initiative, crime in our neighborhoods can be decreased.

The Baltimore City Police Department is committed to working with our communities. Community policing is about developing partnerships that radically improve our ability to solve our crime problems. By building and fostering these relationships, citizens and community leaders can help each other prevent and control crime.

I am convinced that through regular contact at community meetings and forums, police and community members will discuss concerns and find ways to address them in ways specific to that community. Officers working long-term assignments on the same shift and beat will become familiar figures to community members and will become aware of the day-to-day workings of the community. The increased and visible police presence will help establish trust and help create neighborhood security.

In areas where this has been implemented, we know it is working. But there is more that needs

to be done. With the help of committed and active citizens, I am positive that we will be able to move Baltimore towards a safer tomorrow.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a more attractive place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

Prevention Wednesday Highlight

Action Today Can Prevent Illness Tomorrow

Baltimore City Employees:

Full-time and permanent part-time employees will be granted up to 4 hours per year to use for cancer screenings.

This time will not be counted toward an employee's sick, personal or vacation time.

To ensure appropriate coverage at the worksite, prior approval from supervisor for the 4-hour leave is required.

For more information, visit [Prevention Wednesday](#) online.

Volunteers Needed for 90th Annual Flowermart

"It truly is a microcosm of wonders."

Are you interested in volunteering at this year's Flowermart?

This fabulous two-day event will be celebrating it's 90th year this year. We need volunteers to assist with a wide variety of tasks. If you have a particular interest in neighborhood cleaning and greening, it would be great to have you there.

Please go to <http://www.flowermart.org/volunteers.html> for more information.

Spring Into Volunteering!

March 24, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Clifton and Moores Run Parks

Breakfast and the opening celebration will kick off at Clifton Park off Harford Road in Northeast Baltimore City.

(410) 366-6030 Ext. 115
Or e-mail: naomi@volunteercentral.net

Be a part of beautifying and greening Baltimore. Help with tree planting, cleaning the parks, cutting back shrubs, mulching, gardening and more! No experience is necessary.

Early Spring Nature Walk

March 24, 2007

12:00 Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Carrie Murray Nature Center
1901 Ridgetop Road
Baltimore MD 21207
(410) 396-0808

Take a nature walk on the Gwynns Falls Trail to explore the early signs of spring. No pets please! Admission is \$1 per person. All ages are welcome.

Neighborhood Tree Steward Training

March 24 and 26, 2007

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monday: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

James McHenry Recreation Center
911 Hollins St.
Baltimore, MD 21223
(410) 396-0729

Join members of the Recreation and Parks' Tree Steward Program for a series of workshops on trees in an urban environment and how to take care of them. Recommended for ages 16 and older. The event is FREE and open to the public.

Friends of Druid Hill Park

March 28, 2007

6:00 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Headquarters
3001 East Drive
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-0730

Join the newly revitalized Friends of Druid Hill to talk, plan, organize and support this 745-acre jewel in the middle of Baltimore.

Nature Story Hour

March 29, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Cylburn Arboretum
4915 Greenspring Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209
(410) 367-2217

Children, ages 3-6, are invited to hear stories about the natural world around them. Learn about insects, trees, flowers, birds and other wildlife in an informal setting just for pre-school age children. Weather permitting, a short nature walk will follow story hour. Admission is \$1 per child.

To find more events in your community, visit Baltimore's Department of Recreation and Parks [Public Events Calendar](#).

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